

National Sports Teleconference

Meeting Minutes

14 April 2021

Our Mission is to serve Veterans, which includes serving military and RCMP members and their families, to promote remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.



**NATIONAL SPORTS TELECONFERENCE
14 APRIL 2021, 1100 HRS EST
MEETING MINUTES**

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**NATIONAL SPORTS TELECONFERENCE
MEETING MINUTES
14 APRIL 2021**

ATTENDEES:

Dominion Sports Committee:

Chair	Brian Weaver
Vice Chair	Dave Flannigan
Member	Jerry Lava
Member	Keith Andrews
Member	Serge Thibaudeau
Member	Melvin Crowe
Coordinator	Lia Taha Cheng
Asst Coordinator	Angela Keeling Colkitt

Other Guests:

TVS Rep	Dawn Adams
OSI Special Sec	Chris Richardson

**Provincial Sports Representatives/
Support Staff:**

BC/YT	Norm Scott
BC/YT	Bryan Lutz
AB/NT	Gordon Morrison
SK	Nathan Hofmeister
MB/NWO	Don Lemon
ON	Walter Stevens
ON	Lisa Dinsmore
ON	John Crook
ON	Juanita Kemp
QC	Norman Shelton
NB	Gary McDade
PE	Theresa Gallant

ABSENT:

**Provincial Sports Representatives/
Support Staff:**

SK	Les Trayhorne
SK	Roberta Taylor
MB/NWO	Rick Bennett
NB	Stella Ward
NS/NU	Robert Hoeg
NL	Mary Burt
NL	Paul Hillier

1. OPENING RITUAL

The meeting commenced at 1100 hours EST via zoom video conferencing on Wednesday, 14 April 2021. The Sports Committee Chair conducted the opening ritual.

2. SPORTS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed the committee members, the Provincial Command sports representatives, support staff and other guests, thanked them for joining the conference call and applauded their hard work and dedication to the Legion Sports Program.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

The chair entertained requests to add new agenda items. The following items were added for discussion:

- No points were added.

4. **2020 & 2021 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Dominion Member Sports (Cribbage, Darts and Eight Ball) Championships were cancelled. In order to acknowledge and congratulate the 2020 provincial member sports qualifying teams, Dominion Command was to distribute the Dominion Championships crests and pins to the winning teams.

As a result of the many Branch closures, Dominion Command was hoping to distribute the packages once the majority of Branches reopened. However, it has now been one year; therefore, Dominion Command will send the packages to the Provincial Commands for distribution as follows:

Provincial Command	Provincial Cribbage	Provincial Darts	Provincial Eight Ball
BC/YT	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled
AB/NT	Br. 02-253	Br. 02-286	Br. 02-017 Br. 02-175
SK	Cancelled	Br. 03-059	Canceled
MB/NWO	Br. 04-023 Br. 04-090 Br. 04-065	Br. 04-030	Br. 04-043
ON	Br. 05-050	Canceled	Canceled
QC	Br. 06-081	Canceled	n/a
NB	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled
NS/NU	Br. 08-038	Canceled	Canceled
PE	Br. 09-005	Br. 09-005	Br. 09-006 Br. 09-001
NL	Canceled	Canceled	Br. 10-047

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Dominion Member Sports (Cribbage, Darts and Eight Ball) Championships were also cancelled.

5. 2022 & 2023 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent event cancellations, the upcoming Dominion Member Sports Championships are scheduled to be held as follows:

2022 Dominion Member Sports Championships:

Cribbage: 22 to 25 April 2022

Host: Branch #02-015 Men of Vision
PO Box 183 Stn Main, Cochrane, AB T4C 1A5

Darts: 29 April to 2 May 2022

Host: Branch #01-004 Chilliwack
9350 Mary St, Chilliwack, BC V2P 4H1

Eight ball: 27 to 30 May 2022

Host: Branch #02-104 Innisfail
1-5108 49 Ave, Innisfail, AB T4G 1R1

2023 Dominion Member Sports Championships:

Eight Ball: 26 to 29 May 2023

Host: Branch #10-051 Happy Valley-Goose Bay
PO Box 335 Stn B, Hpy-Vly-Goose, NL A0P 1E0

The Dominion Command Sports Committee is seeking Branch applications to host the 2023 Dominion Cribbage and Darts Championships as follows:

Cribbage: Friday 21 April – Monday 24 April 2023

Darts: Friday 28 April – Monday 1 May 2023

A call for hosting applications was distributed to Provincial Executive Directors, Dominion Sports Committee members, and Provincial Command sports representatives, as well as all Legion Branches through the March 2021 Legion Dispatch All Branch email. The application deadline for individual Branches to Provincial Commands is 31 July 2021. Provincial Command sports representatives were reminded to prioritize the applications they receive before submitting them to the Dominion Command Sports Committee by 31 August 2021 for consideration.

6. MEMBER SPORTS

Member Sports continue to promote Legion comradeship and sportsmanship by bringing together members from every Branch of the Legion. The sporting events help keep members physically active and add to the social aspect of the Branch. This helps attract new members and retain current members, which in turn brings in needed revenue, acts as a member incentive and helps engage members through activities and camaraderie.

The Provincial Command sport representatives from BC/Yukon and Ontario shared information regarding Darts BC and Darts Ontario who use Legion Branches as venues for their dart leagues. This has resulted in new members and assisted with member retention. They have observed that many dart players are supporting Legion Branches and suggested that Dominion Command reach out to the National Darts Federation of Canada to explore potential opportunities.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

As a follow-up from the last National Sports Teleconference, the below information was collected from Provincial Commands.

Provincial Command	Matching shirts provided by PC	PC funding support for Dominion Championships	Number of players sent to Dominion Championships	Other PC Member Sports Championships
BC/YT	Yes	- pays for balance of flight (if applicable) not covered by the \$700/player from DC - provides a \$200 cheque to each winner for accommodations	7	Euchre
AB/NT	Yes	- players are subsidized \$150 for accommodations based on double occupancy - players are subsidized \$60 per day for meals	4	Euchre Darts Mixed Darts Senior Mixed Cribbage Pairs Cribbage Seniors Shuffleboard M & W Shuffleboard Mixed Shuffleboard Seniors Eight Ball Singles
SK	Yes	- no financial assistance provided	7	Curling Golf Bowling Shuffleboard
MB/NWO	No	- pays for the single and doubles players' airfare up to \$700 - provides all 7 players with \$75 per diem	7	Golf
ON	Yes	- pays for the accommodations and extra travel costs not covered by DC - provides each player with a \$75 per diem (\$4 is charged to every player at Districts to cover above costs)	Cribbage: 4 Darts: 7	Snooker Senior Darts Youth Darts Euchre Shuffleboard Mixed Darts Horseshoes Washer Toss Golf

Provincial Command	Matching shirts provided by PC	PC funding support for Dominion Championships	Number of players sent to Dominion Championships	Other PC Member Sports Championships
QC	No	- \$1,200 is provided to each team for accommodations and other expenses (\$50 is charged to every team that attends Provincials to cover above costs)	4	Golf
NB	No	- pays for balance of flight (if applicable) not covered by the \$700/player from DC - pays accommodation costs for the players (Each team pays a registration fee for Provincials which is used to cover above costs)	4	n/a
NS/NU	No	- no financial assistance provided	Cribbage: 4 Darts: 7	Curling
PE	No	- \$500 per sport team (\$125/person)	4	Shuffleboard Washer Toss
NL			4	

Provincial sports reports for 2019 were requested in April 2020. To date, only BC/YT and ON have submitted a report. Provincial Commands were reminded to submit reports as soon as possible.

7. 2020 & 2021 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships were cancelled.

There have been some requests for the Sports Committee to explore a virtual event for 2021. It was suggested that the meet could be linked to verifiable performances and already sanctioned events within a specific timeframe. Provincial Command sport representatives discussed that with the number of COVID-19 cases increasing, variances between provincial restrictions and a minimal return on investment, it is not feasible, nor beneficial, to host a virtual Legion Nationals. Dominion Command will launch some social media opportunities for prizes to help engage athletes throughout the summer and will provide Provincial Command sport representatives with advance notice.

8. FUTURE LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

As a result of an enhanced bid process, increased promotions of the event, and an economic impact assessment report, the number of bids received to host Legion Nationals has significantly increased in recent years. Seven high-quality bid packages were submitted during the last bid period and numerous communities have expressed a high level of interest in hosting Legion Nationals. Following a competitive review of the proposals, the Sports Committee selected Calgary, Alberta to host the 2024 and 2025 Legion Nationals. Therefore, the upcoming schedule is as follows:

- 2022: Sherbrooke, QC, 3-9 August 2022 (competition dates: 5-7 Aug)
- 2023: Sherbrooke, QC, 9-15 August 2023 (competition dates: 11-13 Aug)
- 2024: Calgary, AB, 7-13 August 2024 (competition dates: 9-11 Aug)
- 2025: Calgary, AB, 6-12 August 2025 (competition dates: 8-10 Aug)

During the post bid period debrief meetings, half of the unsuccessful candidates mentioned their interest in hosting for one year, a norm in sport, instead of two, in order to increase the number of opportunities to host. In the past, Legion Nationals had a one-year rotation; however, due to lower interest in hosting and investment requirements, host municipalities preferred to spread their costs over two years. Feedback from the teleconference participants supported this two-year cycle for the time being.

The teleconference participants also discussed potential additional costs in 2022 should there still be COVID-19 restrictions. It was determined that a restricted event would not be possible as Legion sponsored athletes spend six days within a very close proximity of one another as they must travel, eat, and be accommodated together. The Sports Committee will defer to government directives in terms of vaccine requirements to participate in major sporting events. The importance and value of continuing Legion Nationals was reinforced as one of the few ways that the Legion engages with Canadian youth. The event introduces youth to the Legion and provides us with the opportunity to connect with them, expose them to the Legion spirit, and build brand affiliation for potential future members. It is also an educational forum as certain activities engage the youth in Remembrance which instills a respect for our Veterans and what they have sacrificed.

9. SPORTS GUIDE REVIEW

There has been mixed feedback in regard to standardizing member sports rules across the country as some Provincial Commands would like to maintain their autonomy and others would like a uniform platform. Until a consensus is reached, the Dominion Command Sports Guide will be reviewed and additional tournament templates will be developed. Provincial Command sports representatives have been asked to connect the Sports Committee coordinator with any experts in cribbage, darts or eight ball who would be willing to assist in the review.

ACTION: Provincial Command Sports Representatives

10. REGIONAL REPRESENTATION – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current committee liaison tasks are assigned by the chair as follows:

NL/LAB and PE – Dave Flannigan

NS/NU and NB – Melvin Crowe

QC and ON – Brian Weaver

MB/NWO and BC/YT – Jerry Lava

SK and AB/NT – Keith Andrews

Dominion Sports Committee members will make and maintain contact with their associated provincial sports representatives and provide any feedback to the Dominion Command Sports Committee on Provincial Command concerns for both Legion member sports and track and field.

11. NEW BUSINESS

As referenced at item 3: No new items were introduced.

12. CLOSING RITUAL AND ADJOURNMENT

The chair concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for their insight and valued input. The chair conducted the closing ritual and the meeting adjourned 14 April 2021 at 1220 hours EST.

The recommendations contained within these minutes are subject to the approval of Dominion Executive Council or Dominion Convention as appropriate.



Brian Weaver
Chair



Lia Taha Cheng
Coordinator

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DEC

Dominion Past Presidents

Dominion Sports Committee Members

Provincial Command Executive Directors

Provincial Command Sports Representatives

Dominion Command Committee Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators